



1 Peter

A 20-WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES

By Lisa Hughes

1 Peter

Lesson #1, Book Overview

Using only the text of 1 Peter, try to answer the following questions. Be sure to cite the Scripture references which show where you found your answer. At this point in the lesson, you may not be able to answer every question using only your Bible. You will have an opportunity at the end of this lesson to complete your answers using other Bible study sources.

1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is it written?
3. When was the book written?
4. Where was it written?
5. What is the general tone of the author in the book?
6. What is the author's purpose in writing this book?
7. What topics are included in this book?

8. What are the key words of the book? Key words are words that are repeated or carry an important thought.

9. What are the main themes of the book? A theme is the main idea, the overall message.

10. What attributes about God do you see in this book?

11. What attributes about Christ do you find in this book?

Now go back and answer the above questions using a Bible dictionary or Bible commentary to add details to your answers above.

12. What insights have you gained thus far in your study of 1 Peter?

1 Peter

Lesson #2, Chapter 1 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 1 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 1. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-2).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 3-9).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-12).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 13-16).
 - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 17-21).

- f. Summarize paragraph 6 (verses 22-25).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers. Your answer might look like this: God caused us to be born again according to verse 3.

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about your faith in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

1 Peter

Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-5

Read through Chapter 1 before beginning this study. Make sure you spend time in prayer asking the Lord for His help and insight before you dive into the lesson.

1. Unlike letters we write today, the author of this letter states his name at the beginning. Who is the author and how does he identify himself in verse 1?
2. Peter was called by Jesus to be one of His disciples. As we read about Peter it is evident that he was a leader, even among the leaders chosen by Jesus. In light of the following verses, what did the Lord intend Peter's ministry to be? See Luke 22:32; Jn. 21:15-17 and Gal. 2:1-10.
3. In verse 1 Peter identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Define *apostle* [Strong's #652]. What do the Scriptures have to say about who an apostle is and their purpose? See Mark 3:14-16; Acts 1:21-26; 1 Cor. 15:4-10 and Gal. 1:1.
4. What do you learn about the recipients of this letter according to verse 1?
5. Peter says in verse 1 that the recipients of his letter were strangers who had been scattered throughout *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*. Look on a Bible map to see the areas that Peter mentions. Remember that *Rome* is where the persecution began that these believers were facing. Many of the believers may have lived in Rome and had to flee from there as they began to undergo more difficult trials. Note where the areas mentioned above are in relation to Rome.

6. Peter describes the Christians as strangers or aliens in verse 1. Look up the following verses to get a clearer understanding of what he is trying to communicate about them. See Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11.

7. We learn from the verses above that God intends for us to live here on earth as if we were strangers here, travelers on our way to our true home. Think about how you are living currently. Do you have the attitude of an alien or stranger whose real home is heaven? What are some of the challenges to maintaining a “temporary” mindset? What helps you to remember you are a stranger or alien here?

8. The Bible Knowledge Commentary notes that the word “*scattered*” (diasporas) had special meaning to the Jewish Christians in these churches. The diaspora referred to Jews who were separated from their homeland.” Think about who Peter is writing to. How did Peter adapt this word (*diaspora*) in verse 1 to describe the condition of the early church? See also Jn. 7:35 and James 1:1.

9. What final characteristic is revealed in verse 1 (KJV verse 2) about the people to whom Peter is writing? How did this event come about (verse 2)?

10. What does it mean to be one of the chosen of God? Here are just a few verses on this topic. See 1 Pet. 2:9; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:3-6; 2 Thess. 2:13.

11. When Peter talks about God’s foreknowledge, he means that God predetermined your salvation. Predetermined doesn’t mean God looked forward in time to see who would choose Him, rather He *determined* before the beginning whom He would choose. Look up the following verses to gain a

biblical understanding of how we are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God: Acts 15:17-18; Rom. 8:28-30 and Eph. 1:3-5, 11.

12. What means does God use to bring about the choosing of these aliens and strangers (verse 2)?

13. Define *sanctify*. How do the following verses add meaning to the definition? See 1 Thess. 5:23 and 2 Thess. 2:13. Now answer: Just what is the sanctifying work of the Spirit?

14. You have been chosen with a purpose. What is it according to verse 2?

15. What does verse 2 teach you about salvation and obedience? See also 1 Pet. 1:14, 22; Rom. 6:16; Eph. 2:10; 1 Thess. 1:9-10.

16. What does Peter mean when he says we are chosen to obey Christ and to be sprinkled with His blood? See Ex. 24:3-8; Heb. 9:13-15, 19-22; 1 Jn. 1:7.

17. What has God done for you according to verse 3? What attribute of God moved God to do so?

18. The term “born again” can seem cliché today, but here in the pages of Scripture it comes alive. God uses it to describe a real occurrence that

happens at salvation. Read 1 Pet. 1:23; 2:2; Jn. 3:1-18; 1 Jn. 4:7; and 5:18. What do you learn from those verses? Are you “born again”? How do you know?

19. What does Jesus’ resurrection have to do with our hope as mentioned in verse 3? See also Jn. 11:25-26; 14:19; 1 Cor. 15:13-19.

20. Not only has God caused us to be born again, but He has also given us hope about something we will obtain. What is it (verse 4) and how is it described?

21. Summarize what the Scriptures say about the inheritance of the believer. Read Ps. 16:5-6; Matt. 25:34; Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:12; 3:24; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:5; Rev. 21:7.

22. And finally in verse 5 we learn some other truths about the believer’s state. What do you observe?

23. Looking at verses 1-5 list the ways that God is active in your salvation. What part have you played in that?

24. How do these verses from 1 Pet. 1:1-5 encourage you as you run the race of the Christian life? Name one aspect of salvation that we have studied in this lesson that makes you marvel at God so that you echo Peter’s words, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING
by Robert Robertson

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name – I'm fixed upon it –
Name of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my ransomed soul away;
Send thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

6. What time reference does Peter make in verse 6? Keeping that phrase in mind, what observations can you make about trials and their duration? See also 1 Pet. 5:10.

7. There is a little phrase in the midst of verse 6 that can get passed over if we are not careful to observe it. It is *if necessary*, which can also be translated *if need be* or *if God should will it so*. This little phrase implies the sovereign plan of God at work in the lives of believers, which leads us to verse 7. Why did God allow these trials to come upon the Christians according to verse 7?

8. What comfort do you gain knowing that God *allows* and even *crafts* these trials for a purpose in your life?

9. Let's begin to build a short Biblical definition of trials and their purpose in the lives of believers. Summarize what you learn from the following verses: Ps. 31:7; 34:19; 2 Cor. 1:3-5; 4:17; James 1:2, 12; 1 Pet. 4:12, 19.

10. What kind of faith do believers possess according to verse 7?

11. Look up the following verses to discover more about faith that is tested: Deut. 8:2, 16; Job 23:10; Is. 48:10; Heb. 11:17 (cf. Gen. 22:1-18); James 1:2-4.

12. The believer's proven faith results in praise and glory and honor when Jesus is revealed. What else does faith produce as seen in verse 8?

13. What is the final result of their faith in Christ (verse 9)?

14. All of human history is leading up to the time when Jesus Christ will be revealed as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the completion of our salvation. Choose one or two phrases out of verses 6-9 to think on and pray about. Write down the phrase and how it affects you.

15. In verse 10 Peter discusses a different aspect of the salvation he has been talking about in verses 6-9. What do you learn about the prophets in verses 10-12? See also Luke 10:23-24; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:25-27.

16. Since the garden of Eden a Deliverer for mankind had been hinted at in the Bible. Clues to His identity and His work were scattered throughout the chapters of the Old Testament. Like Bible detectives the prophets tried to piece together the Scripture clues. As you read the following verses which reveal clues about the Messiah, imagine reading them for the first time. Marvel at the unfolding of God's plan throughout the pages of Scripture! See Gen. 3:15; 49:10; Deut. 18:18; Ps. 2:6-12; 22: 1-18; Is. 11:1-10; 42:1-9; 53:2-12; Micah 5:2.

17. What do the angels want to understand (verses 10-12)? Why? See Luke 15:7, 10; Eph. 3:8-10; Heb. 2:16 (for context read Heb. 1:13-2:18).

18. Reread verses 3-12. Notice words like *revealing*, *revelation*, *announced*, which communicate that God's plan has been made open for all to understand. As you look up the following verses record what has been made clear that was once a mystery. See 1 Pet. 1:3-12; Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 1:7-14; 6:19; Col. 1:25-27; 2:2-3.

19. So far in Chapter 1, Peter has written about salvation—the glory and wonder of it, the bedrock firmness of it, the hope of it, the strengthening of it. How can reviewing these truths bring joy and peace to your heart?

20. Horatio Spafford may well have been meditating on 1 Peter 1 when he wrote the hymn “It Is Well With My Soul.” www.Cyberhymnal.com writes: “This hymn was written after two major traumas in Spafford’s life. The first was the great Chicago Fire of October 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a wealthy businessman). Shortly after, while crossing the Atlantic, all four of Spafford’s daughters died in a collision with another ship. Spafford’s wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, “Saved alone.” Several weeks later, as Spafford’s own ship passed near the spot where his daughters died, the Holy Spirit inspired these words. They speak to the eternal hope that all believers have, no matter what pain and grief befall them on earth.” As you read the hymn on the following page record your observations about Horatio Spafford’s response to the trials he was experiencing.

21. Write down at least one time in the last week or two when you chose to rejoice in your salvation while going through a difficulty.

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord!
Blessèd hope, blessèd rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

1 Peter

Lesson #5, Chapter 1:13-25

Seek the Lord's help in understanding His Word and applying it to your life.

1. Verse 13 begins with therefore. What has Peter been discussing in the previous verses that he is linking with verse 13?
2. Though you can't tell in English, in the Greek Peter emphasizes the main verb in this sentence which is *fix your hope*, while the other two participial verbs describe *how* believers are to fix their hope. Define *fix* [Strong's #1679 (ESV, NIV *set*; NKJV *rest*)] and *completely* [Strong's #5049 (ESV, NKJV, NIV *fully*)].
3. How is your understanding of verse 13 enhanced, knowing that *fix your hope* is to be emphasized above the other two commands in the sentence?
4. Define *prepare* [Strong's #328 (NKJV *gird*)]. See also Eph. 6:14; Col. 3:2. Describe what it means to "gird your mind for action."
 - a. Define *keep sober* [Strong's #3525 (NIV *be self controlled*)].
5. How would girding your mind for action and keeping sober in spirit help you to fix your hope completely on the grace to come when Jesus is revealed?

6. Where is your hope today? Is your hope fixed upon the grace to come when we shall see Jesus face to face? From what you have learned so far in 1 Peter, what are the benefits that come from fixing your hope on that soon and coming day when Jesus will be revealed as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

7. Verse 14 literally reads, *As children of obedience*, which has the same meaning as when we say, “He is the son of Jacob” or “They are the children of the pastor.” D. Edmond Hiebert in his commentary on 1 Peter makes the distinction, “‘Obedient children’ refers to Christian conduct, and ‘children of obedience’ designates their character.” He also states, “Their nature as ‘children of obedience’ distinguishes them from the unsaved who are ‘sons of disobedience’ (Eph. 2:2; 5:6). As a child of obedience how are you to live out your character according to verses 14-15?”

8. Define *conform* [Strong’s #4964]. See also Rom. 12:2 and Eph. 4:20-24.
 - a. Define *lust* [Strong’s #1939 (ESV *passions*; NIV *evil desires*)]. Review 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-24; Eph. 5:3-5; 1 Thess. 4:3-5.

9. What reason is given for being holy (verse 16)? How does the reason support Peter’s statement that we are children of obedience? See also Jn. 1:12; Phil. 2:15; 1 Jn. 3:1-3, 10.

10. God is telling us not to act like we did when we were unbelievers. We know better now. We are not in ignorance. How are you doing in this area? Are you growing in holiness? Are you overcoming the sins that entangled you before you were a Christian? What one area are you currently asking God to change in you so that you will be more like Christ?

18. What command is given in verse 22?

19. What must, of necessity, come first before we can obey that command (verse 22)? Why is it necessary?

20. What do you learn in verses 23-25 that tells you it is possible to obey the command of verse 22? See also Col. 1:3-8 and 1 Thess. 2:13.

21. In verses 22-25 Peter attests to the steadfastness of the word of God in contrast to the world in which we live. He ends by saying, "And this is the word which was preached to you." This life changing word was preached to you and is now at work in you so that you can love others. The word of God is an anchor for your soul; it is a hammer to break up the stony ground of your heart; it is a comfort in times of trouble; and it is at work in you so that you will be like Christ. If you find you are having trouble loving others what do you need more of? Why? See 2 Tim. 3:16-17 and Heb. 4:12.

The Christian is bred by the Word, and he must be fed by it. ~William Gurnall

22. Throughout Chapter 1, Peter explains that our salvation should be a motivation for a changed life. Review the chapter and take note of the actions we are to engage in as a result of salvation. Is there anything you need to work on? How will remembering your salvation help you to obey in these areas?

1 Peter **Lesson #6, Chapter 2 Overview**

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 2 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 2. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 2. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-3).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 4-8).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 9-10).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 11-12).
 - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 13-17).

- f. Summarize paragraph 6 (verses 18-25).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things you learn about God in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers. Your answer might look like this: Christ is choice and precious in God's sight according to verse 4.

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What different words are used to describe *believers* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.

8. What do you learn about the *submission* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

9. What commands are given in this chapter?

10. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"

8 and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1 Peter Lesson #7, Chapter 2:1-8

Read through Chapter 1 and 2:1-8 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord for His help as you approach this lesson.

1. Chapter 2:1 begins with *therefore*. As good Bible students we need to ask, "What is *therefore* there for?" What preceding comments are being connected to 2:1?
2. What command is given in verse 1?
3. Define each of those dreadful qualities listed in verse 1.
4. What does Peter urge us to do in verse 2? What is the manner in which we are to obey this encouragement?
5. Define *long* (NIV *crave*; KJV *desire*).
6. John MacArthur writes, "Spiritual growth is always marked by a craving for and a delight in God's word with the intensity with which a baby craves milk." Early church father, Tertullian, suggests, "The word of God must be desired for the sake of life, devoured by hearing, ruminated by understanding, digested by faith." As you look up the following verses ask yourself, "Is this true of me?" If it isn't, turn to God in prayer, repent of any sin and beg God to give you an intense hunger for His word. Be encouraged that God will answer your prayer because it is His will. Look up at least 5 of the following verses and summarize what you learn: Job 23:12; Ps. 1:1-2;

19:7-11; 119:16, 24, 35, 47-48, 72, 92, 97, 103, 111, 113, 127, 159, 167, 174;
Jer. 15:16.

7. According to verse 2, what is the result of implementing what Peter is urging?

8. Verse 3 explains why we we're expected to obey those commands. What is the explanation?

9. How have we tasted the kindness of the Lord? You will find your answer in Chapter 1 as it moves into 2:1-3.

10. If you are a Christian, you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. Are you putting aside evil deeds and longing for the Word of God so that you will grow in your walk with the Lord as 2:1-3 says? What are some practical ways you can begin to implement these steps today?

11. How does verse 4 describe Christ?

12. How are we described in verse 5? What is your purpose revealed here in verse 5?

13. What kinds of sacrifices can you offer to Christ that would be acceptable to Him? See Micah 6:6-8; Rom. 12:1-2; 15:16; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15-16.

14. In verses 6 and 7 Peter affirms the truths he has just written by supporting it from the Scriptures. What do you learn? Where does that Scripture reference come from?

15. Explain the value and function of a cornerstone. See also Eph. 2:19-22.

16. Verse 6 says that those who believe in Christ will not be disappointed. In what way will Christ not disappoint us? See Is. 28:16; Ps. 22:5; Rom. 9:32-33; 10:10-13.

17. Consider carefully your own responses to Christ. The Scriptures say that we will not be disappointed if we believe in Him, but do you find yourself disappointed, depressed, angry at the way your life is going? Why is that? Is it because you have a wrong view of what God is doing in your life? Do you have a wrong view of salvation and what God intends for you? Ask God to help you rejoice in your salvation and to see Him properly. Adjust your thinking so that you will think rightly about God.

18. Peter then contrasts those who believe in Christ with those who disbelieve. What do you learn about those unbelievers in verses 7-8?

19. Verse 8 concludes with, “and to this doom they were also appointed” which seems to mean that they were destined to disobey the word of God. Rather, it means that those who are disobedient to the word by rejecting Christ stumble, which is the doom they are destined for. Look up the following verses to discover the lengths men go to to reject the precious Cornerstone: Jn. 3:19; 5:39-40; Rom. 2:5-8; 2 Pet. 3:16.

20. There are only 2 groups of people here: those who believe in Christ and those who reject Him. There can never be neutral ground where Christ is concerned. It may be that some of you are trying to live in the neutral zone, but if you have not repented of your sins and placed your faith in Christ, He is a stumbling stone to you. Do you regard Christ as the precious Cornerstone or do you reject Him?

21. Even for those who have placed their faith in Christ there is a warning here: do not reject God’s Word by unbelief and disobedience. What do you learn from the following verses about believing and obeying God’s word? See Ps. 37:31; 119:11; Luke 6:46; 1 Thess. 4:1-2; Heb. 5:9; 1 Jn. 2:3-6.

22. How are you doing in this area of belief and obedience to God’s Word? Is there any danger of you stumbling in disobedience over some issue or attitude? How can it be possible to move from unbelief and disobedience to rejoicing in Christ?

23. Though we have focused our attention on what happens when someone rejects Christ, Peter’s goal in this section is to reveal the glories of Jesus Christ. What encouragements have you discovered in verses 1-8?

1 Peter

Lesson #8, Chapter 2:9-12

Lean on the Lord for His help as you read through Chapter 2 in preparation for this lesson.

1. Peter begins verse 9 with the contrasting word *but*. What contrast is he making here?
2. What group is Peter speaking to and how does he describe them in verse 9?
3. Peter refers to different Old Testament texts in his description. Look up the original references to gain a more complete picture of what Peter intends his audience to understand. See Ex. 19:6; Deut. 7:6-8; 14:2.
4. God has showered His mercy and goodness upon you for a purpose. What is it according to verse 9?
5. The Psalms also talk about proclaiming God's praises. See Ps. 22:22; 51:15; 79:13; 106:1-2; 138; and 1 Pet. 2:9. Explain what it means to proclaim the excellencies of God.
6. According to verses 9 and 10 what is the content of your message about God? In verse 10 Peter is quoting from the prophet Hosea. Look up Hosea 1:6-10 and 2:23 for a clearer understanding of what Peter is trying to communicate.

7. Briefly proclaim the excellencies of God by writing down how He called you from darkness into light.

8. God called you for this purpose: to proclaim and show forth how wonderful He is. How are you doing in this area? Do others know what you think about God? Can others see the work He is doing in your life?

9. How does Peter describe his readers in verse 11? How do those descriptions fit with what he had been telling them in verses 9-10?

10. The Bible frequently refers to God's people as strangers or foreigners. See what you can learn as you look up the following verses: Gen. 15:13; Ex. 23:9; Deut. 10:18-19; Heb. 11:13-16; 1 Pet. 1:1; 2:11.

11. Puritan preacher Thomas Watson wrote, "The world is but a great inn, where we are to stay a night or two, and be gone; what madness is it to set our heart upon our inn, as to forget our home." When you introduce yourself do you use terms like alien and stranger to describe who you are? Probably not. Yet, what is your identity? Why is it crucial to develop the mindset of a "foreigner in a foreign land?"

12. Because Christ has redeemed us and this world is no longer our home, what does Peter urge us to do and why (verse 11)?

13. Define fleshly lusts. See also Eph. 2:3; Rom. 6:12-13; 13:13-14; 1 Pet. 4:1-3.

14. What do you learn about the battle fleshly lusts wage against your soul from the following verses: Rom. 7:14-23; Gal. 5:17, 24; James 4:1?

15. How can you battle against fleshly lusts? Start with 1 Pet. 2:11; Rom. 8:12-13; 13:13-14; 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Tim. 2:22.

16. Not only are we to abstain from fleshly lusts, Peter also urges us to do what in verse 12? What reason is given for maintaining that command in verse 12?

17. Think carefully about verse 12. At what point is your behavior to be excellent?

18. Notice that Peter emphasizes your good deeds, rather than your words in response to slander and accusation. The following verses echo that thought: Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:1-2. Why would that emphasis on deeds rather than words be a challenge for you?

19. How would knowing that your good deeds could become a means of giving God glory help you to press on in the face of accusation and slander?

20. To give glory to God is to be every Christian's goal today, tomorrow, and in eternity. As you have grown more aware of giving God glory in all you do, how has it changed your attitudes and actions?

1 Peter Lesson #9, Chapter 2:13-25

Lean on the Lord for His help as you read through Chapter 2 in preparation for this lesson.

1. Give a brief summary of the content of 2:1-12.
2. In Chapter 2:11-12 Peter exhorts us to keep our behavior excellent among the Gentiles, then in the following verses he provides specific ways for us to live that out. What is the first way he tells us to do this in verses 13-14?
3. Define *submit*. Why does Peter include *for the Lord's sake* with the command?
4. How does Peter describe those we are to submit to in verses 13-14? How does his description indicate what our attitudes are to be toward them?
5. What reason does he provide us with to help us submit (verse 15)?
6. What commands are given in verse 16? What do they mean in light of the previous verses' exhortation to submit to those in authority?
7. The Believer's Bible Commentary states, "If we live as bondservants of God, our relationship with governmental authorities will fall into proper place. We are to act in the light of His presence, obey Him in all things, do all for His

glory. The best citizen is a believer who lives as a slave of the Lord.” What are some ways you could put verse 16 into practice as you submit to the governing authorities?

8. As Peter continues to give specific instruction about submitting to the governing authorities, what does he exhort us to do in verse 17?

9. Define *honor*. How would you show honor to someone? See also Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:32; and Rom. 13:7.

10. The Greek verb construction of verse 17 begins with a general statement to honor all men, then moves to the specific ways to do that by loving the brotherhood, fearing God, and honoring the king. How are you doing in these areas? Choose one area that you think you need to work on and list one way you can begin to apply it.

11. In verses 18-25 Peter addresses a specific group of people. Who is he writing to and what does he tell them to do in verse 18? In what way are they to do that?

12. Define *unreasonable* (*harsh* NIV, NKJV).

13. Since verse 18 is directed toward slaves, some may think these verses don't apply to them. However, verses 19-20 can be applied to anyone who is suffering unjustly. What specifics about behavior and attitude do you see in those verses? (Note: many commentators believe that a modern day

equivalent of the slave/master relationship can be seen in the boss/employee relationship, so verse 18 would still have practical application today.)

14. Why would these exhortations to bear up under suffering be so important in light of what Peter said in 2:12?
15. Peter states in verse 21 that you have been called for a purpose. What is it (verses 19-21)?
16. Peter says in verse 21 that Christ is our example and that we are to follow in His steps when it comes to bearing up under unjust suffering. List the ways we are to follow Christ's example in suffering from verses 21-25.
17. What was Christ's key to enduring suffering (verse 23)?
18. Why would it be encouraging to know that God is the One who judges righteously when you are being harshly treated? See also Ps. 7:8-11; 2 Thess. 1:3-12; 2 Tim. 4:7-8.
19. You might be tempted to think that what God is telling you to do in these verses is too difficult for you, that He is asking too much of you, but Peter reminds us of a crucial truth in verse 24, which is there to help you endure your trials. What is the reminder?

20. Explain how verse 25 fits the flow of thought from verses 18-24.

21. How does this last truth also encourage you when you are undergoing trials? See also Ps. 119:67, 71, 75, 176.

22. The message is clear in this book: salvation must make a difference in your life, especially when life is difficult. What truths have been a source of conviction or encouragement for you from this week's lesson? How are you applying these exhortations to your life?

I am afraid that all the grace that I have got of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours, might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable....Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. ~Charles Spurgeon

We can be sure that the development of a beautiful Christlike character will not occur in our lives without adversity....Love, joy, peace, and patience—can only be developed in the womb by adversity. ~Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

And just as the faith of salvation comes through hearing the message of the gospel (Rom. 10:17), so the faith to trust God in adversity comes through the Word of God alone. It is only in the Scriptures that we find an adequate view of God's relationship to and involvement in our painful circumstances. ~Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

1 Peter

Lesson #10, Chapter 3 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 3 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verse 7).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 8-12).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 13-22).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things you learn about God in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What different words are used to describe *wives* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse reference that supports your observations.

8. What do you learn about *husbands* in this chapter?

9. List some things you learned about *doing what is right*. Be sure to include the verse reference with your answer.

10. What do you learn about the *submission* in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

11. What commands are given in this chapter?

12. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

3 Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

10 For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

11 “He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.

12 “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed.

And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1 Peter Lesson #11, Chapter 3:1-6

Read through Chapter 2:12 to the end of Chapter 3 in preparation for this lesson.

1. In verse 1 who is Peter writing to and what command does he give them?
2. Peter begins verse 1 with the phrase *in the same way* (NKJV, ESV likewise). What is Peter referring to from the previous verses (2:12-2:25)?
3. What reason does Peter give for wives to obey this command according to verses 1-2?
4. What picture of submission is painted here in verses 1-2?
5. What extreme case is stated here to show the length to which a woman is to submit to her husband (verse 1)? Why is it important that women understand what God is expecting of them in this case?
6. How would following Christ's example of submission in suffering aid a woman who found herself in a similar situation?
7. Define the following words:

- a. *Submissive* [Strong's #5293 (ESV subject)]:

- b. *Behavior* [Strong's #391 (NKJV, ESV *conduct*)]:

 - c. *Chaste* [Strong's #53 (ESV *pure*, NIV *purity*)]:

 - d. *Respectful* [Strong's #5401 (ESV *respectful*; NIV *reverence*)]:
-
- 8. Sum up what you have learned from these verses in our text about a wife's submission.

 - 9. Now let's look at what the rest of the Scriptures say about wifely submission so you'll gain a complete view of the doctrine of submission. Look up the following verses and then summarize what you have learned: Eph. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:3-5.

 - 10. If you are married, what would you say are some ways you struggle to submit to your husband? How would you describe your submission? Is your godly behavior an example to your husband? Ask your husband if he thinks there are areas you could improve in (but don't argue with his assessment of your submission!). If you are not married, consider the other areas in your life where you are commanded to submit (like the workplace, to the governing authorities, to our church leaders, to one another, to the word of God, to God Himself). How are you doing? Would others be won to Christ by your behavior?

11. What caution does Peter give to wives who are trying to win their husbands without a word (verses 3-4)? Why is this caution necessary?

12. List 3 or more things about the focus every woman should have as seen in these verses.

13. Define *gentle* [Strong's #4239].

14. Look up the following Scriptures to gain a better understanding of what it means to be of gentle spirit. Record your findings. See Matt. 5:5; 11:29; Gal. 5:22-23; 6:1; Col. 3:12; 2 Tim. 2:25.

15. What are some practical ways you can exercise a gentle spirit in your life?

16. Define *quiet* [Strong's #2272].

17. Look up the following Scriptures to gain a better understanding of what it means to be of quiet spirit. Record your findings. See Ps. 119:165; Is. 26:3; Acts 11:18; 22:2; 2 Thess. 3:12; 1 Tim. 2:11-12.

18. What are some practical ways you can exercise a quiet spirit in your life?

19. What 2 examples does Peter cite that are to be an encouragement to you when you submit (verses 5-6)?

20. Peter writes that you will become Sarah's daughter if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear. What does he mean? Make sure you consider the context of verses 1-6 as you form your answer.

21. Often women are fearful to entrust themselves and their future into the hands of their husbands, yet verse 5 provides the key to being able to do this. What is it?

22. How do the following verses encourage you and help you to submit to the situations that God has allowed in your life? See Ps. 34:4; 37:5-6; 56:11; 112:1, 7; 118:6; Eph. 6:7-8; Phil. 4:6-7; Col. 3:18, 23-24.

Peter's point here is that the wife's godly behavior is the most valuable testimony to open the husband's heart to the gospel. He will need to hear the words of salvation, perhaps from her.

But it will be as he is able to observe her submission as a faithful wife that she truly commends the gospel to him. How a believer lives in that most intimate relationship helps make the grace of Christ believable (cf. Matt. 5:16).

~John MacArthur

Peter's insistence on "doing right" is a reminder that no acts of disobedience in Sarah's life are to be imitated by Christian wives (cf. Gen. 16:2, 6; 18:15; perhaps 20:5); it is her submission to her husband and her trust in God that Peter commends. ~Wayne Grudem

As Abraham is the "father of the faithful," so Sarah is the mother of the obedient.

~J. Howard B. Masterman

Like it or not, people notice your "external beautification" and they read the message it communicates. Your outward appearance tells much about you which is why Peter says a woman's adornment needs to be harmonious with her profession that she is a follower of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter Lesson #12, Chapter 3:7-12

Be sure to ask the Lord for His help as you do your lesson.

1. 1 Peter begins verse 7 with the phrase *you husbands likewise*. What comparisons are being made from the previous verses and how does that relate to husbands?
2. What are husbands commanded to do according to verse 7?
3. Why does a husband need to do these things (verse 7)?
4. God is so concerned that husbands live with their wives with understanding and grant them honor that He warns men of the consequences of disobeying these commands. What will happen if they do not heed these words (verse 7)?
5. What are some other ways this can happen? See Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2; James 4:3.
6. Based upon what you have learned, how does God view a husband who does not treat his wife in an understanding way or grant her honor?

7. How can a woman help her husband as he learns to obey God in this way? How long will this process take? What kind of attitude should she have as he learns to do this?

8. Many women are fearful that they will be taken advantage of if they submit in their marriage. How does verse 7 even the balance?

9. How has this section on submission (2:12-3:7) encouraged or convicted you to obey the Lord in a more complete way?

10. After dealing with specific groups of people within the body of Christ, Peter reminds us of the kind of people we need to be so that God will be glorified by our changed lives. What is the first characteristic Peter names in verse 8? Please define the term [Strong's #3675 (ESV *have unity of mind*; NKJV *of one mind*)]. Also see Rom. 12:16; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 1:27; 2:2 for added understanding.

11. The second characteristic Peter lists is *sympathetic* [Strong's #4835 (NKJV *having compassion*)]. Please define that word and look up the following verses for added understanding of its meaning: Rom. 12:15; Heb. 4:15; and 10:34.

12. Next, we are to be *brotherly* [Strong's #5361]. What does that mean (1 Pet. 1:22)? See also Gen. 13:8 for an example of this term lived out.

13. We are also to be *kindhearted* [Strong's #2155 (ESV, NKJV *tender heart*; NIV *compassionate*)]. Give a definition for this term. Also see Ps. 103:13; Matt. 18:33 and Eph. 4:32 to round out your understanding of this word.

14. Finally, we are told to be *humble in spirit* [Strong's #5391 (NKJV *courteous*)]. Give the definition of this word after looking up the following verses which help explain its meaning: Acts 27:3; 28:7; Eph. 4:2.

15. Peter says at the beginning of verse 8 *that all are to be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit*. What area is a challenge for you? What are some specific ways that you can apply these qualities to those around you?

16. What further admonishments for our conduct do we find in verse 9?

17. What reason is given for behaving this way (verse 9)?

18. Peter uses the Old Testament Scriptures in verses 10-12 to describe the blessing he mentions in verse 9. What is the description of the person who wants God's blessing? What is the description of the person who shuns God's ways?

19. How does God respond to the person who seeks Him according to verse 12? How does He respond to the person who does not seek Him?

20. From verses 8-12, look back over the ways we are to conduct ourselves daily. What are some ways you can be more diligent in these areas? What are some ways you can apply these godly qualities to your life each day? Think about your conduct for today. How can you turn away from evil and seek to do good?
21. Though we all fail in many ways, what encouragement does verse 12 hold for us? Also look up the following verses that will encourage you: Ps. 33:18; 37:23-24; 147:11; Prov. 24:16; Rom. 4:4-8; Heb. 4:15-16.

The growth of grace is the best evidence of the truth of it; things that have no life will not grow. ~Thomas Watson

All grace grows as love to the Word of God grows. ~Phillip Henry

The right manner of growth is to grow less in one's own eyes. ~Thomas Watson

Let us be like Christ in mildness and sweetness. Let us pray for our enemies, and conquer them by love. David's kindness melted Saul's heart (1 Sam. 24:16). A frozen heart will be thawed with the fire of love. ~Thomas Watson

1 Peter

Lesson #13, Chapter 3:13-22

Be sure to ask the Lord for His help as you do your lesson.

1. What rhetorical question does Peter ask in verse 13 and what is the implied answer?
2. Define *zealous* [Strong's #2207 (NIV *eager*; NKJV *become followers*)] from verse 13.
3. In verse 13 Peter asks, *And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?* Give some examples of things that are good from the previous verses. How would your eagerness to do good be a protection to you?
4. Would you apply the phrase *zealous for what is good* to yourself? What are some ways you'd like to grow in this area? How would you begin? What kind of attitude or mindset do you need to have to be zealous for what is good?
5. In verse 14 Peter states that *even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed*. Though he doesn't directly explain how or why you are blessed for this type of suffering, verses 14-22 reveal the answer. What do you discover in those verses?
6. Peter's next statement reveals that though doing good to others will generally keep them from harming you, it is not a guarantee. What two ways does God want you to respond in persecution (verse 14)?

7. The NKJV and the NASB give the best translation of Isaiah 8:12 as Peter quotes it in verse 14: “Do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled.” *Wuest’s Word Studies in the Greek New Testament* provides a helpful, literal translation of this verse: “Be not affected with fear by the fear which they strive to inspire in your heart.” What truths from the following verses (that Peter has already written to his readers) would help you to not be troubled or fearful of intimidation? See 1 Pet. 1:3-9; 2:5-6, 12, 19-25; 3:10-12.

8. Over and over again the Scriptures urge us not to fear. Why? What does God want you to understand about His character that will help you not to fear? See Deut. 31:8; Is. 41:10-14; 51:12-15; Matt. 10:28-31; and Jn. 14:1.

9. What actions does Peter urge us to take in verses 15-16 when we face suffering or intimidation?

10. How would setting Christ apart as Lord in your heart be an antidote to fear?

11. What are some ways you can be ready to make a defense for the hope that is within you? (Do you need to take advantage of any of the ways you just listed?)

12. If someone were to ask you about your *hope*, what would you say?

13. Notice that we are to defend the faith with gentleness [Strong's #4240 (NKJV *meekness*)] and reverence [Strong's #5401 (NKJV *fear*)]. Define these words. Based upon all that we have studied so far, why is it necessary to defend the faith in this way?

14. What 2 kinds of persecution are we as believers likely to go through (verse 16)? How can you put those who persecute you to shame (verse 16)?

15. We might find it difficult to obey these commands so Peter adds some encouragement for us in verse 17. What is it?

16. *If God should will it so*—that little phrase implies a submission to whatever God may bring our way because it is His best for us, even if it means suffering for doing what is right. It is understanding that God may allow difficulty and trial and pain to beset us because it is the wisest and most loving way. Write out a prayer of commitment and trust to accept whatever the Lord may bring your way, if He should will it so.

All the way my Savior leads me –
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.
Fanny Crosby

But whether we see beneficial results in this life or not, we are still called upon to trust God that in His love He will do what is best for us and in His wisdom He knows how to bring it about. Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

17. Okay, here comes the tough section. Ready? First, remember that verses 18-22 follow the preceding verses without any interruption of thought or subject matter. That means the clues to interpreting and understanding these difficult verses are found within this section. What has Peter been discussing in the preceding verses (verses 13-17)?

18. Who was our best example of that (verse 18)? What did he do (verses 18-19)? From a commentary or Bible dictionary, see what you can find out about the Greek word used as *proclamation* [Strong's #2784 (NKJV, NIV *preached*)].

19. Who were the spirits in prison? See verses 19-20; Gen. 6:2-5; II Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6. What did Jesus say to them? Why couldn't Jesus' message to the spirits in prison have been a salvation message? [Hint: What had He just accomplished? See verse 18.]

20. Now getting back to the context of the passage: Why are verses 18-20 included in this section on suffering? What is Peter trying to communicate to his readers?

21. What would have happened to the 8 people if they had been in the water? How were the eight people of verse 20 brought safely through the water?

22. How are we saved from death? See verse 21, also refer to verse 18.

23. It is clear from verse 21 that Peter is not discussing water baptism. So what kind of baptism is he writing about? See also Rom. 6:3-11.

24. How is the resurrection a guarantee that spiritual and physical death will not claim the believer? See 1 Cor. 15:17; Col. 2:11-12; Eph. 2:1, 4-7.

25. Peter writes to encourage the suffering believers that Christ victoriously conquered death and that by calling out to Him in faith they would escape death and walk in newness of life. How would those truths be a help to you during suffering?

26. Make a list of things which this passage teaches us to do in the midst of suffering.

Forward, believer in Christ, to the toils, duties, and trials of another stage of life's journey!
Jesus is enough for them all. Jesus will be with you in them all. Jesus will triumphantly conduct you through them all. Beloved one, live in the constant expectation of soon seeing Jesus face to face; conversing with He whom here below, cheered, comforted, and sweetened many a weary step of your Christian pilgrimage. That moment is speeding on. In a little while and all that now wounds and ruffles, tempts and pollutes, will have disappeared like the foam upon the billow, and you shall eternally repose your weary soul in the bosom of Jesus!

~ "Go and Tell Jesus" by Octavius Winslow

1 Peter

Lesson #14, Chapter 4 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 4 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 4. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 4. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verse 7-11).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 12-19).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things you learn about God in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. List the different "time" references in this chapter and what they are linked to. For example, verse 2 says, "live the rest of the time in the flesh" and is linked to the will of God and not living for lust.

8. What do you learn about *suffering* in this chapter?

9. What commands are given in this chapter?

1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;

5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God

supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

1 Peter

Lesson #15, Chapter 4:1-6

It's important to remember that all of 1 Peter is connected. Each succeeding chapter in this book is tightly bound to what precedes it. Peter writes with purpose and a clear sense of what he wants to communicate to the poor persecuted and scattered believers. Thought builds upon thought so that each encouragement, example, and exhortation is funneled into the oft repeated theme: Salvation can and must make a difference in a person's life, consequently one lives for the glory of God no matter what the circumstances. So, in the case of 4:1-6, which contains some difficult statements to interpret, we must remember the theme of this book that Peter has woven throughout his letter so that we too can understand and apply 1 Peter 4:1-6 to our lives.

To gain a good sense of the context, please read 3:8-4:19 before beginning this lesson.

1. Peter begins 4:1 with *therefore* that refers back to his comments about Christ in 3:18. Read those 2 verses together (3:18 and 4:1) and explain Peter's train of thought.
2. In the preceding verses Peter encouraged the believers to follow Christ's example in the midst of unjust suffering, now he reveals a crucial attitude they must possess if they are to follow Christ's example. What is it according to verse 1?
3. What was Christ's purpose according to 3:17-18? See also 2:19-24.
4. From what you have learned, what are some specific ways you can arm yourself with the same purpose as Christ when you are enduring trials?

5. Peter provides a reason at the end of verse 1 for arming yourselves with the same purpose as Christ in your suffering. What reason does he give?

6. The first *hermeneutical* (a big word that means rules for studying the Bible) principle any student of the Bible learns is “context is king.” That rule means context is what determines the meaning of a passage and is to be considered foremost among the other Bible study principles when determining the meaning of a text. In this case, the meaning of the phrase at the end of 4:1 can and must be understood in light of Peter’s comments in 2:11-12 and the subsequent discussion on submission to trials to the end of Chapter 3. Keeping that in mind, what does Peter mean when he says *because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin*. Be sure to read 3:17-18; 2:24; and 2:11-12 as you develop your answer.

7. Peter is driving home the theme of the book in this section (that your salvation through Jesus Christ will make a difference in how you live no matter what circumstances you find yourself in). This is a familiar idea in Paul’s letters as well. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about salvation’s effect upon sin: Rom. 6:6-7; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 5:7-10; Phil. 3:9-11; Col. 3:3-5; and 2 Tim. 2:11.

8. Knowing that salvation produces a changed life, even during suffering, how are we to live our lives according to verse 2?

9. *To live for the will of God*. So often we think of *resigning* ourselves to God’s will. We might sigh, shake our heads and say, “Well, it was the Lord’s will for this to happen.” Yet verse 2 says we are to *live for* the will of God, not just resign ourselves to it. “To live” the will of God means to breathe the will of God, to grip it as life itself and to have it as the focus of your being. Assess how you are living for the will of God at this time in your life. What does verse 2 tell you about your purpose today?

10. What reason does Peter give for this purposeful living in verse 3?

11. Prior to becoming a Christian, you may not have lived to the excesses described here, but what is the main point Peter is making that we need to be sure to understand and apply from verse 2?

12. How do the following Scriptures echo what Peter is saying here in verse 3? See 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 2:1-3, 10; Col. 1:21-22; 3:7-8; and Titus 2:11-14.

13. What inevitably happens when someone turns away from sin to follow Christ (verse 4)?

14. What encouragement does Peter give for those who are maligned in verse 5? See also 2:12.

15. Why would Peter's encouragement be especially helpful to the scattered believers in their present circumstances? Read 2 Thess. 1:4-10 to see the similar circumstances the Thessalonian believers found themselves in. What similarities do you find between these two passages?

16. Look up the following verses and list what you learn about Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. See Jn. 5:22-29; Acts 10:42; 17:30-31; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; James 4:12.

17. What do the Scriptures teach about the judgment of believers and unbelievers? Base your answer from the following verses: Mt. 25:31-46; Jn. 3:16-18; 5:24; Rom. 5:18-21; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 1 Pet. 2:6-8; 1 Jn. 4:17; Rev. 20:11-15.

18. All commentators agree that verse 6 poses some serious interpretative challenges to any Bible student. It's for that reason that we want to examine the context preceding verse 6 to make sure we are interpreting the verse in line with the flow of the passage, just as we did for verse 1. To begin with, note and write down the similar phrasing Peter uses in 3:18; 4:1 and 4:6.

19. With the words of verse 5 still echoing in his head, Peter continues his thoughts about those believers who have died. What does it mean to be *judged in the flesh* as used here? See Rom. 5:21; 6:23; I Cor. 15:16-18, 22, 54-57.

20. What word describes the state of the people Peter is writing about in verse 6 that tells you they have been judged in the flesh?

21. What does verse 6 tell us about the purpose of the gospel being preached?

22. The conclusion of verse 6 takes us back to where we started in this lesson: living for the will of God. Peter wanted to make sure that the scattered believers understood that circumstances do not and must not change their purpose. The same is true for us, no matter how difficult our situation, we are to live for the One who saved us and called us with a holy calling. Write out a prayer of commitment to live for the will of God each day, especially when you find yourself in difficult circumstances.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee,
That where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.
John E. Bode

1 Peter Lesson #16, Chapter 4:7-11

Keep leaning on the Lord for His help as you study His Word.

1. Peter ended 4:1-6 with the admonition to live for the will of God. Now he begins to give some practical ways to do this, especially in light of what truth (verse 7)?
2. What does Peter mean by the phrase, *the end of all things is at hand*? See Rom. 13:12; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 10:25; James 5:8; Rev. 22:20.
3. What effect is Christ's soon return to have upon your life according to verse 7?
4. Define *sound judgment* [Strong's #4993 (ESV *self-controlled*; NKJV *serious*; NIV *clear-minded*)]. See also Rom. 12:3 and Titus 2:6, 12.
5. Define *sober spirit* [Strong's #3525 (NIV *self-controlled*)]. See also Eph. 6:18 and Col. 4:2.
6. Jesus taught Peter an important lesson about prayer and now he passes it on to us. What did Peter learn in Matt. 26:38-46? What does Peter want his readers to learn about prayer, especially in light of their current difficulties?

7. How would you describe your prayer life? Is your prayer life like the description in verse 7? What are some ways you have discovered that help you to be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer?
8. What are we to do above all (verse 8)? Why?
9. Define *fervent* [Strong's #1618 (ESV *earnestly*; NIV *deeply*).
10. In what way is love to cover a multitude of sins? See Prov. 10:12; Matt. 18:21-22; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Eph. 4:32.
11. In what way does love not cover over sin? See Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:9-13.
12. Is there someone in your life you need to apply this verse to? Are you keeping fervent in your love for them, forgiving them, praying for them or are you holding grudges, being critical and unthankful? If it is the latter, stop right now and ask the Lord to change your heart so that you can obey this verse with joy. Remember Col. 3:12-13: "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."
13. Keeping in mind the theme of living for God's glory especially in times of persecution and difficulty, what is the next area Peter urges us to do (verse 9)?

14. Define *hospitable* [Strong's #5382]. See also Rom. 12:13; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; Heb. 13:1-2; and 1 Pet. 4:9 as you formulate your answer.

15. True hospitality literally means, the love of strangers. In a Biblical sense then, showing hospitality would mean going out of your comfort zone and getting to know new people at church or spending time with people you know only on a surface level. How are you doing in this area? What are some practical ways you apply this command in your life?

16. Why would it be so important to practice hospitality without complaining? How are you doing in this area?

17. What do you learn about gifts from verses 10-11?

18. Now look up Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-10; Eph. 4:4-7, 11-13. What else do you learn about the gifts of God?

19. Why does God give believers a special gift? See 1 Pet. 4:10-11 and 1 Cor. 12:7.

20. Every believer receives a special gift from God when they are born again. The Holy Spirit residing in us gives us the desire and ability to serve in different ways in the body of Christ. How are you using *your* special gift given to you from God? How have you *developed* your gift to serve the body of Christ in a more excellent way? If you are not sure what your gift is, just begin to get involved at church by serving in a ministry. Over time your area of giftedness

will become clear to you and to others: not only will you like your area of service, but others will like you serving in that area!

21. The commands of verses 7-11 are to be obeyed on a continual basis. Yet in this letter, Peter includes them in the middle of his comments about giving God glory in suffering and persecution and difficulty. Why do we need to pay particular attention to these commands when we are going through trials? How would your obedience to verses 7-11 give God glory?

God never wastes His servants' pain.
God never wastes His servants' time.
God never wastes His servants' toil.
God never wastes His servants' gifts.
~Amy Carmichael

Many pray, "Let this cup pass away," but few, "Thy will be done."
~Thomas Watson

Be often among the godly. They are the salt of the earth, and will help to season you. Their counsel may direct; their prayers may enliven you. Such holy sparks may be thrown into your breasts as may kindle devotion in you. It is good to be among the saints to learn the trade of godliness: He that walketh with the wise men shall be wise (Prov. 13:20)." ~Thomas Watson

<p>1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,</p>	<p>➤Identify yourself with Christ to the extent that you too die to sin and live to righteousness “for by His wounds we are healed.” Christ died for us so that He might bring us to God, having been made alive in the spirit. Because we are made alive in the spirit, we are no longer our own, we are to have the same purpose as Christ and die to sin and live for the will of God.</p> <p>➤Taking into account the preceding verses: In light of Peter’s theme of suffering in a godly way because an ungodly world is watching, remember that Christ died for us so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, so that He might bring us to God, having made us alive in the spirit, we no longer sin with abandon, but try to live righteously and godly while “in the flesh”. Be sure to note the verses to look up in question #7 and #8</p>
<p>2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.</p>	<p>➤We are to live the rest of our time here on earth no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.</p>
<p>3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.</p>	<p>➤You already had the opportunity to sin your heart out, and not live for God. In other words, why would you continue sinning now when you are Christ’s?</p> <p>➤The idea is that no matter what, we are NOW to live for the will of God.</p>
<p>4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;</p>	<p>➤They are surprised at how you have changed and they begin to malign you.</p>
<p>5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.</p>	<p>➤They shall give an account to Him who judges the living and the dead.</p> <p>2:12 – they may through your godliness glorify God when He comes again.</p> <p>Be sure to note the judgement of believers and unbelievers from question #18.</p>

6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

➤Because there is a final judgement for all men (the living and the dead), then the gospel has been preached.

➤The dead – believers or unbelievers? Believers. Clues? “They may live in the spirit according to the will of God” same phrasing as 3:18 and similar phrasing to 4:2.

➤Can an unbeliever ever live in their spirit according to the will of God and as vs. 2 says “for” the will of God?

➤What does “judged in the flesh” mean? We are judged in the flesh (because of our sin being children of Adam) and so we die physically, but because of Christ’s victory over death we only feel death’s sting, but it has no real power over us. Through Christ we triumph over death and live eternally.

➤When vs. 6 talks about the dead that tells us that they have experienced the sting of death, but not its full effect. They have died physically (the sting), but they did not die eternally (the full effect).

➤What was the purpose of the gospel being preached? That those who hear it and respond to it would live in the spirit according to the will of God.

What is the purpose of 4:1-6? To remind us that no matter how bad it gets we are to live for the will of God. The very worst thing that could happen to us is that we would die physically, but through Christ we have died to sin and been made alive in the spirit so that we would live the rest of the time here on earth for the will of God.

1 Peter

Lesson #17, Chapter 4:12-19

Ask the Lord to give you understanding of His Word and how to apply it in your life. Read all of Chapter 4 in preparation for this lesson.

1. In verses 12-19 Peter returns to the subject he has been developing throughout the book: your salvation must be evident in your life, especially when you are going through suffering and difficulty. His words in 4:12-19 continue to develop the thought from 2:12, *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.* Explain Peter's train of thought in Chapter 4 keeping in mind the theme of the book and 2:12 as just mentioned.
2. What tender term does Peter use as he tries to encourage the suffering believers (verse 12)?
3. Peter urges the believers not to be surprised at the trials they are facing (verse 12). If they are not to be surprised, then that means they are to _____ trials. Why do we need to be encouraged to maintain that mindset?
4. *Fiery ordeal* may sound like the name of a salsa, but Peter intended to convey something completely different. What does that phrase mean? See also Ps. 66:10; Prov. 27:21; Dan. 11:32-35; 1 Pet. 1:7.
5. Why has this fiery ordeal come upon them according to verse 12? Why is this necessary? See Deut. 8:2, 16; 13:3; Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:10.

6. Why weren't they to think it strange that these things were coming upon them? See Matt. 5:12; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:2-4; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:13; 5:9.

7. What truths about God's sovereignty over the events of your life do you observe in verse 12? How do those truths about God affect you and your understanding of your life's circumstances?

8. Not only were they to expect trials and suffering, but Peter tells them of another attitude they were to maintain according to verse 13. What is it and what reasons are given for having this attitude?

9. What do you learn from the following Scriptures about those who share the sufferings of Christ? See Luke 9:23; Acts 5:41; Rom. 8:16-17; Phil. 3:7-11; 1 Pet. 5:1.

10. What example does Peter give in verse 14 of what it means to share in Christ's sufferings? How does God want you to view your suffering? Why?

11. List at least 3 things you learn about the Holy Spirit from verse 14.

12. See Acts 6:15; 7:54-60; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 1 Pet. 1:7-8 for some examples of what it means to have the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon you. How does that truth encourage you?

13. Some might be tempted to think that any kind of suffering we go through is blessed by God. What does Peter remind us in verse 15?

14. In contrast to verse 15, what encouragement do we have if we suffer as a Christian in verse 16? What does it mean to suffer as a Christian (verse 16)?

15. Verses 17-18 may cause you alarm unless you remember a few truths we have learned along the way. What kind of judgment does a believer have in this life? See 1 Cor. 11:32 and Heb. 12:5-11.

16. What is the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? See 1 Pet. 2:7-8; Rom. 2:8; 2 Thess. 1:8.

17. F. B. Meyer illustrated the meaning of verse 18 with the following story which was found in his writings: "It was the earnest wish of a holy man that his death might be so triumphant that his unconverted sons might be convinced and attracted by the evident power of the Gospel to sustain and cheer in the dark passage of the valley. Instead of this, to his deep regret, his spirit lay under a cloud; he was oppressed with fear and misgiving; and the enemy was permitted to torment him to the uttermost. But these very facts were the ones which most profoundly impressed his children. "For," said the eldest, "we all know what a good man our father was; and yet see how deep his spiritual sufferings were. What then may we not expect, who have given no thought to the concerns of our souls?" What point is Peter trying to make in verses 17-18? Remember to take into account the issue of a believer's suffering for being a Christian as you formulate your answer.

e. Verse 16:

f. Verse 19:

g. Verse 19:

It cost Christ and all His followers sharp showers and hot sweats ere they won to the top of the mountain. But still our soft nature would have heaven coming to our bedside when we are sleeping, and lying down with us, that we might go to heaven in warm clothes; but all that came there found wet feet by the way, and sharp storms that did take the hide off their face, and found toes and frosts, and ups and downs, and many enemies by the way. ~Samuel Rutherford

If Christ Jesus be the period, the end and lodging-home, at the end of your journey, there is no fear, ye go to a friend...ye may look death in the face with joy. ~Samuel Rutherford

The great Master Gardener, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in a wonderful provision, with His own hand, planted me here, where by His grace, in this part of His vineyard, I grow; and here I will abide till the great Master of the vineyard think fit to transplant me. ~Samuel Rutherford

1 Peter Lesson #18, Chapter 5 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 5 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 5. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 5. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-5).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verse 6-11).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 12-14).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things you learn about God in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers.

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.

7. What do you learn about *elders* in this chapter? Be sure to cite the verses where you found your answers.

8. What do you learn about *humbling* in this chapter?

9. What commands are given in this chapter?

10. Write down *at least* one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

1 Peter

Lesson #19, Chapter 5:1-5

Ask the Lord to give you understanding of His Word and how to apply it in your life. Read all of Chapter 5 in preparation for this lesson.

1. Peter begins 5:1 with *therefore*, which lets us know that what he is going to discuss next is connected with the previous verses. What idea from 4:12-19 is Peter connecting to his commands to church leadership in 5:1-5?
2. Before Peter even tells the leaders of the church what he wants them to do, he identifies himself with them. What does he reveal about himself? How would those words give credibility and authority to the commands that follow?
3. Where are the elders according to verse 1? How many elders are there (verse 1)?
4. What do those two observations (from the previous question) tell you about the kind of church leadership God expects and why it is good and necessary for the congregation?
5. The Scriptures use the terms *overseer*, *bishop*, *elder*, and *shepherd* to refer to the same role in the church. Look up the following verses then summarize what you learn about elders: Acts 15:22; 20:28; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:1; 5:17-18; Heb. 13:17.

6. What are the necessary qualifications for elders? See 1 Tim. 3:2-7; 2 Tim. 2:24-26 and Titus 1:5-9.

7. What are the elders commanded to do in verses 2-3?

8. Define the word *shepherd* [Strong's #4165]. See how the same word is used in Jn. 21:16 and Acts 20:28.

9. Read Ezek. 34:1-10 and make at least 5 observations about the role of a shepherd.

10. What attitudes and motivations are to govern the elder as he shepherds the flock of God (verses 2-3)? How would those attitudes be a protection for the sheep and bring glory to God?

11. What encouragement does Peter have for the elders in verse 4? Why would those words of encouragement be especially sweet to the leaders in the church?

12. Who is the Chief Shepherd and what do you learn about Him? See Ezek. 34:11-16; Jn. 10:11, 14; Heb. 13:20.

13. How would knowing that one day elders would meet the Chief Shepherd be a motivation for excellence in the areas Peter commands in verses 2-3?

14. You may be giving a big sigh of relief since these verses pertain to the elders of the church, but you're not off the hook yet. Consider this: What kind of sheep are the elders to shepherd? Look up 1 Thess. 5:12-13 and Heb. 13:17. In what ways can you encourage your elders as they shepherd the flock of God?

15. We will all see the Chief Shepherd one day. Just as the elders are to be examples to the flock of God, we must follow their example. Are you proving to be an example to your brothers and sisters in the body of Christ? How do your attitudes for serving match up to the ones Peter discusses in verses 2-3?

16. Finally, Peter addresses the young men. What are they commanded to do (verse 5)? Peter uses the term *likewise* [Strong's #3668 (NIV *in the same way*)] to tie it in with what he has already said in these verses. What information is given to "young men" that is linked to what came before—*in the same way*?

17. Why would the admonition to the younger men be necessary?

18. What command is given to the rest of us in verse 5?

19. The word *clothe* literally means “to put or tie on” like when a slave tied on an apron in preparation for serving. It is highly probable that Peter is recalling Jesus’ example in Jn. 13:3-17. Read those verses, then answer: What does God want us to understand about humility when we are told clothe ourselves with humility toward one another?

20. Why is it so important to obey this command according to verse 5?

21. Define *opposed* [Strong’s #498 (NKJV *resists*)]. See also Prov. 6:16-17; 8:13.

22. Make a list of the ways that God gives grace to the humble as you read the following verses: Ps. 10:17; 25:9; Prov. 29:23; Is. 57:15; 66:2; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; James 4:10.

23. Write down 2 ways you can clothe yourself with humility toward one another. Ask God to help you obey this command with diligence and joy.

A humble man has this advantage of a proud man, for he cannot fall.
~Edward Marbury

Christians should always be the ones to start the sprint down the low road.
~Dave Hintz

God’s choice acquaintances are humble men.
~Robert Leighton

Better is the sin which humbles me, than the duty which makes me proud.
~Thomas Watson

1 Peter

Lesson #20, Chapter 5:6-14

Ask the Lord to give you understanding of His Word and how to apply it in your life. Read all of Chapter 5 in preparation for this lesson.

1. One of the characteristics of Peter's writing is that he frequently uses transition terms to connect thoughts as he moves from one subject to another. What thought from the previous section is connected to verse 6 by *therefore*?
2. What command does Peter give us in verse 6? Where or in what way are you supposed to do this (verse 6)? What reason is given to motivate you in this verse?
3. John MacArthur makes the observation that, "The readers of Peter's letter were not to fight the sovereign hand of God, even when it brought them through testings. One of the evidences of lack of submission and humility is impatience with God in His work of humbling believers." How is this similar in thought to 3:17 and 1:6?
4. For an example of submission and humility with God's work in a believer's life see 2 Cor. 12:7-10. How did Paul determine to humble himself under the mighty hand of God?
5. Christian, you are to humble yourself, living under the mighty hand of God. How is living under His powerful hand a comfort and source of security to you, as well as a reminder to keep your heart in check?

6. As we humble ourselves, we are told to be in the process of casting our anxiety upon God (verse 7). What does the word *casting* mean [Strong's #1977] and what picture does Peter intend that word to create in your mind about how you are to deal with worry? Just to make sure you don't miss it, we need to ask: How much worry are we to give to God?

7. What truth about God's character does Peter add to help us obey this command in verse 7?

8. Peter continues with his final words by telling them to do 2 more things in verse 8. What are they to do and why?

9. How are we to respond to the devil according to verse 9? See also Eph. 6:11-13.

10. How would the knowledge that other believers are also suffering help you to stand firm in your faith?

11. How long will you suffer according to verse 10?

12. No matter what length of time you suffer here on earth what is still true about its duration according to verse 10? Why is that true? See 1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rom. 8:17-18; and 2 Cor. 4:16-18.

13. Why is that truth about the duration of suffering so necessary for a Christian to understand?

14. What happens after your suffering (verse 10)?

15. Define the following words from verse 10 to gain an understanding of what God intends to do in your life.
 - a. Define *perfect* [Strong's #2675 (ESV *restore*; NKJV *establish*)]. See also Luke 6:40; 1 Cor. 1:10; and 2 Cor. 13:11 to aid your understanding of this word.

 - b. Define *confirm* [Strong's #4741 (NKJV *establish*; NIV *strong*)]. See Col. 2:7; 1 Thess. 3:2, 13; and 2 Pet. 1:12.

 - c. Define *strengthen* [Strong's #4599 (NIV *firm*)]. This word isn't used anywhere else in the New Testament, but a similar word is used in Eph. 3:16.

 - d. Define *establish* [Strong's #2311 (NKJV *settle*; NIV *steadfast*)]. See Matt. 7:25; Eph. 3:17; and Col. 1:23.

16. What kind of woman does God intend you to be based upon your understanding of the words above?

17. What do you learn about Silvanus (also called Silas) from the following verses? See 1 Pet. 5:12; Acts 15:22, 32; 16:25, 37; 2 Cor. 1:19;

18. As Peter closes his letter to the brethren, what comments does he make about the things he has written to them (verse 12)?

19. Peter closes his letter the way he began it (1:2), with a benediction of peace. What bedrock truths in this letter will lead the believer to the peace that surpasses all understanding no matter what their circumstances?

20. What words from this letter have left their mark upon you? What truths have you come to better understand and apply since studying this book?

To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen!